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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
STATES RELATIONS SERVICE.

A. C. TRUE, Director.

HOW TEACHERS MAY USE FARMERS' BULLETIN NO. 687,  
ERADICATION OF FERNS FROM PASTURE LANDS.

*Range for use.*—Northeastern United States and Appalachian Mountain system farther south. Spring and summer study.

*Relation to the course of study.*—Suited to a study of weeds, pasturage rotations, and nature study, and suggesting suitable correlations with other branches.

*Topics.*—Use this bulletin for two purposes. First, teach how to recognize as many of the common local ferns as possible and to identify the weed ferns in school and then in the field. Second, teach how to eradicate these ferns and have determined the best methods for local application.

Under recognition include individual ferns and habits of growth and spreading. Identify at long range in fields and then verify. Also fix names properly and try to dispel confusion where all ferns are called brakes or where the sensitive fern as a weed is called the "polypod." The real polypod is rarely ever a weed.

Under eradication consider whether cultivation is possible. What advantages in cutting, in spraying with salt solution? Why hesitate to use arsenite of soda? Inquire as to local practice and results.

*Illustrative material.*—Have pupils assist in gathering, pressing, mounting, identifying, and labeling properly specimens of all local ferns. Obtain help in identifying specimens. See Farmers' Bulletin No. 586.

Common name, <i>Sensitive fern.</i> <i>Miscalled "polypod."</i> Botanical name, <i>Onoclea sensibilis.</i> Where found. <i>Low pasture; dark soil.</i> By <i>John Doe.</i> Date, <i>June 5, 1915.</i> Value. <i>Weed in pastures; also in some plowed fields.</i>
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(Sample label.)

*Field work.*—Have individual pupils agree to try to eradicate ferns in home pastures; one by salting cattle on a clump, the second by cutting, the third by a salt spray, and, when possible, one by cultiva-

tion. Have attempts made to start grass and clover on these spots. The work is to be done from June to August and written reports made in September.

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Approved:

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